

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /120 W

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P R 181052Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2768

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3273

OTTAWA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI MEDIA ON EXTENT OF US AID COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

1. ISRAELI PRESS JUNE 18 IS EUPHORIC OVER SUCCESS WITH WHICH IT SAYS GOI ACHIEVED ITS GOAL FROM PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT: IN EFFECT MULTI-ANNUAL US COMMITMENT TO EXTEND MASSIVE ARMS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. MEDIA ARE INTERPRETING US-ISRAELI JOINT COMMUNIQUE (WIRELESS FILE) AND PM RABIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE LATE JUNE 17 (FBIS KYRENIA 171945Z JUNE 74) AS ONLY CONFIRMING THIS.

2. JERUSALEM POST SAYS: " THIS REACTION BY MR. NIXON WAS JUST WHAT ISRAEL HAD HOPED FOR, A SENIOR OFFICIAL EXPLAINED TO THE JERUSALEM POST LAST NIGHT. THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE DETAILED APPLICATIONS FOR QUANTITIES AND TYPES OF WEAPONRY OR OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY
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--AS HE IN FACT HAD DONE--TO RECOGNIZE ' THE NEW AND MUCH

LARGER' DIMENSIONS OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS FOR THE MID AND LATE SEVENTIES." DAVAR CHARACTERIZES NEW US COMMITMENT AS COMPARABLE TO A DEFENSE TREATY AND SUGGEST THAT IT MAY WELL BE INCORPORATED IN NEAR FUTRE.

3. COMMENT. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, GOI WAS BACKGROUNDING PRESS FOR DAYS BEFORE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EFFECT THAT ISRAEL WOULD SEEK MAJOR MULTI-YEAR US AID COMMITMENT DURING VISIT (AND WOULD PROBABLY GET IT). IN NEXT FEW DAYS WE SHALL BE REFLECTING AND REPORTING ON WHY THIS WEAK GOVERNEMTN DECIDED TO AROUSE SUCH HIGH DOMESTIC EXPECTATIONS, AND WE SHALL ALSO BE WATCHING TO SEE IF ISRAEL'S SOPHISTICATED PRESS COMMENTATORS MAY NOT BEGIN VIEWING WITH SOME SKEPTICISM GOI VERSION OF EXTENT OF NEW US ASSURANCES ON FUTURE AID.
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